

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 6, 2006 (the "Office Action"). Claims 1 and 8 have been amended and Claims 7 and 10-13 have been canceled. Thus, Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 14-18 remain in the application of which Claims 1 and 14 are the only independent claims. Favorable action on the merits of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action objected to Claims 7 and 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 7. Therefore per the Examiner's assessment of patentability, independent Claim 1 is allowable. For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is allowable as are all claims depending therefrom. Reconsideration and favorable action of the remaining claims are requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of Claim 14 through 18.

CONCLUSION

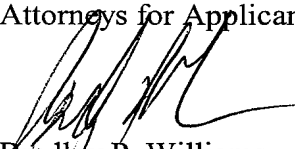
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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6/6/06

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